



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Idaho Panhandle
National Forests

Bonn timers Ferry Ranger District
6286 Main Street
Bonn timers Ferry, ID 83805
(208) 267-5561

December 18, 2017

Dear Friends and Neighbors of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests, we are soliciting public comments on the Camp Robin project on the Bonners Ferry Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The project is in the development phase in collaboration with the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative¹ to complement other landscape restoration work in the Lower Kootenai River Valley.

The project area is about 42,000 acres and is located in the Camp Nine and Robinson Lake areas north and east of Bonners Ferry. The proposed activities are located within all or portions of Federal lands in: T65N, R1E, Sections 25, 26, 33-36; T65N, R2E, Sections 8, 10, 14, 15, 17, 20-22, 26-31, 34, 35; T64N, R1E, Sections 3, 4, 8, 17, 20, 21, 28, 29, 32, 33; T63N, R1E, Sections 1,3,4,10,14, 15, 23-26, 36; T63N, R2E, Sections 17-20, 29-33, Boise Meridian.

The proposed action includes approximately 390 acres of prescribed burning and about 6,200 acres of commercial vegetation management on National Forest System lands. Proposed vegetation treatments include about 90 acres of pre- commercial thinning, 2,864 acres of intermediate harvest prescriptions and 3,334 acres of regeneration prescriptions. A combination of prescribed burning and machine piling would be used to treat fuels in the commercial harvest units and along private land boundaries in the precommercial thinning units. Actions to improve wildlife habitat, aquatic resources, roads and recreational opportunities are also proposed with details listed in the scoping notice for this project. Road treatments to reduce sediment and provide for safe public travel include maintaining and improving about 58 miles of roads and reconstructing about 10 miles of roads. Approximately 13 miles of temporary roads would be constructed to provide access to treatment locations and they would be rehabilitated following the completion of project-related activities.

The complete scoping notice, maps and unit tables are available on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/ipnf/landmanagement/projects>). Look for the Camp Robin project in the listings. After receiving your comments on this proposal, we will prepare a draft environmental assessment (EA) that will provide sufficient analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact. If you comment on the enclosed proposal, you will also have the opportunity to comment on the EA before we issue a decision. This project is subject to the Forest Service's objection regulations², which means we must specify a 30-day comment period which determines who is eligible to object to the decision. We have chosen to conduct that comment period when we release the EA.

¹ The KVRI collaborative consists of the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Boundary County, City of Bonners Ferry, private citizens, landowners, Federal and State agencies, conservation/environmental advocacy groups, and representatives of business and industry.

²36 CFR Part 218 Project-level Predecisional Administrative Review Process. 36 CFR Part 218.5 provides that those who have submitted timely specific written comments during any designated opportunity for public comment may file an objection, that would include the comment period you are offering with this letter.



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This scoping process will also manage the public outreach for any comments concerning cultural and heritage resources as per the National Historic Preservation Act, 36CFR Part 800.2(c)5, and FSM2361.25.

How to Comment

Please use the enclosed form, call, write a letter, or send us an e-mail. Please submit site specific comments by *resource issue* so they can be readily identified, tracked and incorporated into project design. Comments will be best utilized for designing the project if submitted by January 19th, 2018. Specific comments should be focused on the proposed action and include rationale to help us understand your concern. *We will also be hosting an open house meeting at the Boundary County Extension Office on Thursday, January 4th, from 6pm to 8pm. The address is 6447 Kootenai Street, Bonners Ferry, Idaho.*

The responsible official for this project and the decision is the Forest Supervisor for the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Please submit your comments to: Doug Nishek; Attn: Camp Robin Project:

- by mail to Bonners Ferry Ranger District, 6286 Main Street, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805;
- by phone to Project Leader – Doug Nishek (208) 267-6765;
- by facsimile to (208) 267-3732;
- hand-deliver between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.
- Comments may also be submitted electronically to the following email address comments-northern-idpanhandle-bonnors-ferry@fs.fed.us
- in one of the following formats: text or html e-mail, Adobe portable document format (pdf), or formats viewable in Microsoft Office applications.

The subject line must contain the name of the project for which you are submitting comments. For electronically mailed comments, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from the agency as confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgement of the receipt of comments, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names, addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection.

Sincerely,

Kevin S. Knauth
District Ranger



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COMMENT FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

My comments:

Please send me a copy of the draft and final decision information on the Camp Robin
Project _____

Please remove my name from the mailing list for the Camp Robin Project

Return Comment form to: Bonn timers Ferry Ranger District

Attn: Doug Nishek, Project Leader

6286 Main Street

Bonn timers Ferry, Idaho

83805

FAX: 208-267-3732